REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 12, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 17 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice. The subject matter of claim 17 has been added into claim 18. New claim 22 is submitted. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-16, 18-20, and 22 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 1-5 and 16-20 were objected to on the grounds that the phrase "configured to" is prohibited by U.S. patent practice. The Office Action referred to "MPEP" 2111.04 and 2106C. However, applicants respectfully submit that the phrase "configured to", as used in claims 1-5 and 16-20, is well accepted in U.S. patent law, and is not prohibited by U.S. patent practice. The cited sections of the MPEP do not specifically address "configured to" terminology. The MPEP sections merely state that "adapted to" and other, similar clauses may raise a question as to the limiting affect of the language in the claim. However, the cited sections of the MPEP do not indicate that any such clauses are impermissible. Quite to a contrary, however, applicants respectfully submit that the phrase "configured to" has been repeatedly accepted by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office as being part of a proper claims; this phrase has long been accepted as defining a specific configuration, and therefore has been repeatedly found to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of an invention. It is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 USC § 101 on the grounds of the claimed invention was directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim 21 has been cancelled without prejudice. New claim 22 is directed to a computer program implemented on a computer readable medium, with the computer program controlling a processor to perform numerous functions. This claim configuration has long been accepted by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, and upheld by U.S. federal courts, as defining an invention in compliance with 35 USC § 101.

Claim 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Caronni (U.S. Patent No. 6,507,908). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caronni in view of Carr (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,744). As will be discussed below, these prior art rejections are now moot.

Claim 18 was objected to as being dependent upon the rejected based claim, but would otherwise be allowable. Claim 18 has been placed into independent form, and claim 17 has been cancelled. Claims 19-20 have been amended to be dependent upon claim 18. The prior art rejections, therefore, are moot.

Claims 6-15 have been allowed; applicants appreciate the examiner's courtesy in allowing these claims.

In view of the above remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently pending claims 1-16, 18-20 and 22 are in compliance with the U.S. patent practice, and recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited

prior art. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of the presently pending claims be found allowable, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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